



SC Department of Employment and Workforce
NEWS RELEASE

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Four Additional Postal Employees Charged with Defrauding the Government in Connection with Filing False Claims for Unemployment

Columbia—United States Attorney Bill Nettles announced the indictment of four additional United States Postal Service employees. Mr. Nettles added that these indictments follow five indictments from the Florence area and are part of an ongoing sweep targeting fraud by Postal workers in claiming unemployment benefits.

Emma Robinson, age 45, of Laurens, South Carolina, was charged in a 1-count Indictment with theft from the United States government, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641. The maximum penalty Emma Robinson could receive is 10 years imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney David C. Stephens of the Greenville Office for prosecution.

Eric Foster, age 28, of Boiling Springs, South Carolina, was charged in a 1-count Indictment with theft from the United States government, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641. The maximum penalty Eric Foster could receive is 10 years imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney David C. Stephens of the Greenville Office for prosecution.

Lille Owings, age 43, of Ware Shoals, South Carolina, was charged in a 2-count Indictment with theft from the United States government, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641, and making a false statement to obtain unemployment benefits, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1919. The maximum penalty Lille Owings could receive is 10 years imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney David C. Stephens of the Greenville Office for prosecution.

Kyotji Elmore, age 28, of Woodruff, South Carolina, was charged in a 2-count Indictment with theft from the United States government, a violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 641, and making a false statement to obtain unemployment benefits, a violation of Title

18, United States Code, Section 1919. The maximum penalty Kyotji Elmore could receive is 10 years imprisonment. The case was investigated by agents of the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General, and is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney David C. Stephens of the Greenville Office for prosecution.

“These arrests emphasize our desire to cut down on fraudulent benefit payments which in turn helps reduce funds needed to pay benefits and will have a direct impact on employers’ unemployment taxes,” said the SC Department of Employment and Workforce Executive Director John Finan.

“These indictments represent a collaborative effort between the SC Department of Employment and Workforce, the Department of Labor Inspector General, and the Postal Service’s Office of Inspector General (OIG),” according to Joanne Yarbrough, Special Agent in Charge of the OIG’s regional office. “The Postal Service prides itself in its dedicated and professional employees and their ability to provide the service our customers have come to expect. The employees identified today are a very small percentage of the thousands of South Carolina postal workers entrusted with processing and delivering the public’s letters and parcels every day.”

The United States Attorney stated that all charges in these Indictments are merely accusations and that all defendants are presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.